
If you believe you are eligible to vote and encounter difficulty registering, please contact the New Jersey Division of Elections, at:

P.O. Box 304
Trenton, NJ 08625
(609) 292-3760 (voice)
(609) 777-1280 (fax)
www.state.nj.us/lps/elections

If the New Jersey Division of Elections is unable to help you, or to report a problem, contact:

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Voting Section, Rm. 7254 - NWB
Washington, D.C. 20530
(202) 307-2767 (voice)
(800) 253-3931 (toll-free)
(202) 307-3961 (fax)
www.usdoj.gov/crt

This pamphlet is provided for informational purposes only, as an aid to further inquiry. The laws in many states are revised frequently, and may have changed since this pamphlet was issued. It is your responsibility to determine whether you are lawfully eligible to vote, and criminal penalties can result from voting when ineligible or making false statements on a registration form.

Issued December, 2000

U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division



Restoring Your Right to Vote



The right to vote is an important civil right in a democracy as well as a civic responsibility, and yet many persons who have been convicted of a crime do not know whether they are eligible to vote. For both federal and state elections, the right to vote is controlled by the law of the state in which you live. Some states restrict the right to vote for persons who have been convicted of a crime. This pamphlet is intended to help you determine whether you are eligible to vote in the state in which you live, and if so, what steps you must take to be permitted to vote.

What law governs whether my felony conviction limits my right to vote?

The impact of a criminal conviction on the right to vote varies widely from state to state. Whether you can vote after being convicted of a crime is determined by the state in which you live, not the state in which you were convicted.

Can I vote while I'm incarcerated in New Jersey?

If you are a resident of New Jersey, you cannot vote while you are incarcerated as a result of a criminal conviction. If you are a resident of another state who is temporarily incarcerated in New Jersey, you may be able to vote an absentee ballot for your home state. You need to consult the law of your home state regarding both criminal convictions and absentee ballots to see if this is a possibility.

I have been released from incarceration. How do I restore my right to vote?

In New Jersey, the right to vote is automatically restored upon completion of your sentence, including any period of probation or parole. In order to vote, you simply must register.

What if my conviction was for a federal crime?

New Jersey applies the same rules whether you were convicted of a federal or state crime.

What if I was convicted in another state?

The same rules apply for New Jersey voters even if the conviction occurred in another state.

What happens if I move to another state?

If you move to another state, your right to vote will be controlled by the laws of that state.

What are New Jersey's voter registration requirements?

To register to vote in New Jersey, you must be a U.S. citizen at least 18 years of age on or before the next election, and you must have resided at your current address for at least 30 days.

When do I need to register to vote?

Registration is available year-round in New Jersey. However, in order to vote in an election, you must register at least 29 days before the election.

Where do I go to register?

Registration is available at many places in New Jersey, including:

- Municipal Clerk's office
- Commissioners of Registration's office
- Division of Motor Vehicles

Registration is also available at many state agencies when you are there transacting business or applying for services.